

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2005

Mr. David Westin
President
ABCNews
7 WEST 66th Street
New York, NY 10023.

Dear Mr. Westin:

We appreciate your service to the public as head of one of the nation's premiere news organizations. ABC News has been vigilant about its mission to relay accurate information to the American public.

In that spirit, and in the name of honesty and accuracy in the media, we ask that ABC News remove Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. as the sponsor of the "Only in America" series on Good Morning America. Allowing Wal-Mart to sponsor this program enables it to bolster its image as a company that engages in practices that promote American values, respect American workers and favor American-made products. Unfortunately, Wal-Mart's record is littered with the examples that they would rather talk about being patriotic, than take real actions that improve the lives of its employees, the community, and this nation.

Contrary to popular belief, the majority of the clothing purchased by shoppers at Wal-Mart stores is not manufactured in the United States. Instead, it is produced in 48 other countries around the world. According to the Los Angeles Times, 10% of all Chinese imports are sold by Wal-Mart. In 2003, Wal-Mart abandoned its "Buy American" campaign and formed its own global procurement division. Ted Fisherman's book titled "China, Inc." states that 70% of the products sold in Wal-Mart are made overseas.

More recent estimates suggest that just a fraction of Wal-Mart's goods are actually made in America. Over the last few years, Wal-Mart's business practices have helped force American manufacturers to eliminate thousands of family-wage jobs.

Wal-Mart has also been cited for having sweatshop-like conditions at the factories of its overseas vendors. Workers have been subjected to forced overtime, locked bathrooms, starvation wages, pregnancy tests, and denial of access to health care. Employees who have tried to defend their rights have been fired or blacklisted.

Domestically, their employees fare little better. A person working as a cashier or sales associate at Wal-Mart will earn an annual salary that is below the poverty line. Furthermore, Wal-Mart's average hourly wage falls below basic living wage standards. Wal-Mart restricts access to family health care coverage and provides inadequate retirement benefits to its employees.

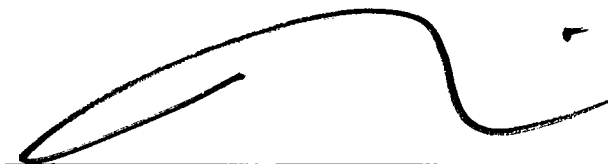
These facts - and there are many more examples - raise serious questions regarding Wal-Mart's ability to sponsor the "Only in America" series. It is obvious that this is a hypocritical attempt by Wal-Mart to use ABC to sell and market an image that is based on falsehoods. This company continues to mislead the nation while entering into business methods that will continue to cost thousands of Americans their jobs and businesses.

We believe that Wal-Mart's sponsorship of this segment - a segment meant to highlight hardworking and strong willed Americans -- is wrong and misleading to the viewer. We call upon you to cancel Wal-Mart's sponsorship of the "Only in America" series, immediately.

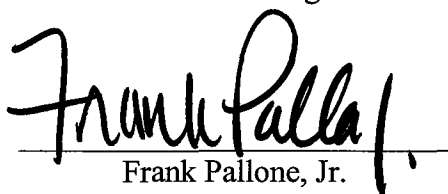
Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



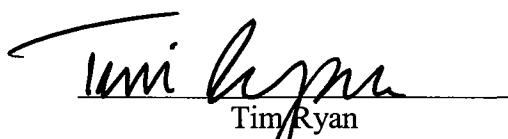
Anthony D. Weiner
Member of Congress



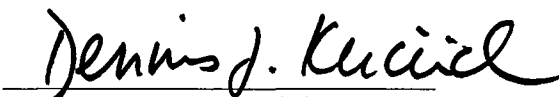
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



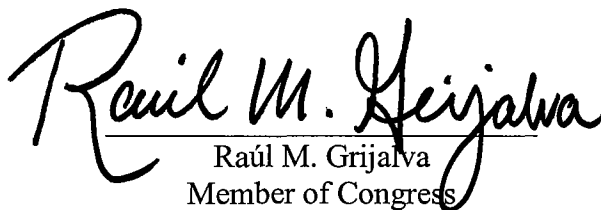
Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress



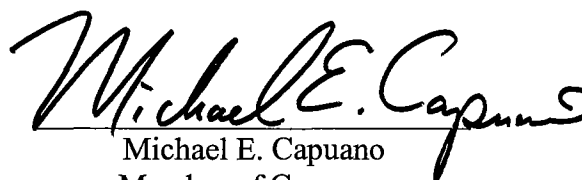
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



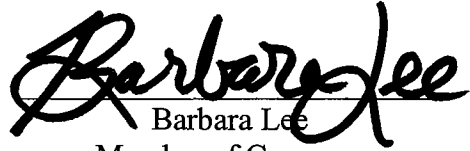
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Ted Strickland
Member of Congress



Lane Evans
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



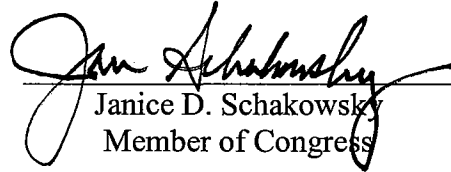
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



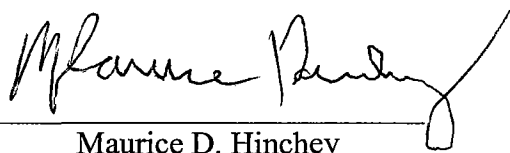
Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress



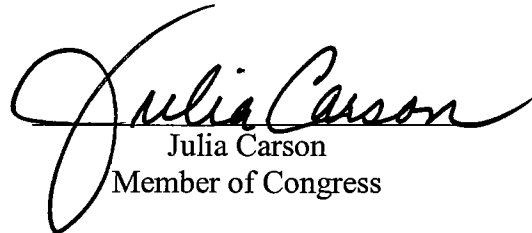
Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress



George Miller
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress



Julia Carson
Member of Congress



Tom Lantos
Member of Congress